

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /095 W

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R 161040Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1224

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, TH, SHUM, SREF

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS/REFUGEES: POSSIBLE UN SPONSORSHIP FOR
REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 163610

1. MISOFF CONFERRED WITH UNHCR PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTL TO
GET AGENCY'S VIEWS ON WHAT SAFEGUARDS WERE POSSIBLE TO ASSURE
VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIANS NOW IN THAILAND, IF INDEED
REPATRIATION BECOMES A REALITY.

2. ACCORDING TO UNHCR OFFICIAL GOBIUS, WHEN CAMBODIANS
INITIATED DISCUSSION REGARDING REPATRIATION THE RTG REPORTEDLY
REPLIED THAT IT COULD NOT RETURN THE REFUGEES AND RECOMMENDED
THAT THE CAMBODIANS CONTACT THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER ABOUT
THE SITUATION. NO CONTACT, TO DATE, HAS BEEN MADE AND GOBIUS IS
DOUBTFUL THAT REPATRIATION WILL TAKE PLACE ANYTIME IN THE NEAR
FUTURE.

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3. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION REGARDING REPATRIATION. SINCE THIS ACTION HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE, UNHCR HAS MOBILIZED NO EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION.

4. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS TO ASSURE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION GOBIUS SAID THAT IF REPATRIATION BECOMES A REALITY UNHCR COULD ONLY PLAY ITS USUAL ROLE OF ASSISTING REFUGEES. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE AGENCY COULD DO VERY LITTLE TO PROTECT REFUGEES AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS EVEN IF A UNHCR REP WAS ALLOWED IN PHNOM PENH.

5. IT IS GOBIUS' OPINION THAT THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT THE REFUGEES. AND HE DOUBTS THAT MANY OF THE REFUGEES WILL WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND AFTER HEARING THE GRIM STORIES BEING CIRCULATED IN REFUGEE CAMPS ABOUT LIFE IN CAMBODIA. DALE

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Message Attributes

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